



ST ACE

JULY 1987

of Sonoma County

ISSUE #12

NEXT MEETING ■■■■

THURSDAY, JULY 20

Meetings are held at the West Santa Rosa Baptist Church, 3884 Sebastopol Rd, Santa Rosa. Go west on Highway 12 from Santa Rosa, turn left at the light at Wright Road (Fulton), go one block and turn left on Sebastopol Road. The church is on the right side of the road. We are in the building to the right of the Sanctuary.

MEETINGS ARE GENERALLY HELD ON THE THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH at the same time and place.

NEXT MEETINGS ACTIVITIES ■■■■

Software Demonstrations

This month we will have the 25" stereo monitor. This monitor allows everyone in the room to see the demo. It's fantastic! The great color, resolution, and sound will blow your socks off.

DEMO #1: PC DITTO - The new program that turns an ST into an IBM!

DEMO #2: SPECTRUM 512 - Someone has figured out how to get all 512 of the ST's colors on the screen AT THE SAME TIME. This is a short demo of some Spectrum 512 pics.

DEMO #3: BARBARIAN! This game is THE most popular game on the AMIGA. IT'S HOT! Software 1st sells them as fast as they hit the shelves. The game pits your Barbarian fighter against the evil creatures in a medieval world. The graphics in this game are top notch. Young people who can't watch horror movies should not attend the demo.

DEMO #4: Leisure Suit Larry - This game places you in the roll of Larry, a sleaze-ball type who lives in bars and tries to pick up girls. This is NOT the game to use for teaching moral lessons to your kids, or anybody else for that matter.

DEMO #5: CLUB DISKS - Tired of buying club disks sight-unseen? Well that's going to change permanently. Starting this month we are demoing the club disks.

Board of Directors

Jim Oglesby - Program Director
Mark Taylor - Membership
Dan Fruchey - Color Librarian
Jerry Mc Bride - Newsletter Editor
Steve Filippello - Artist, Co-Editor
John Haseltine - Treasurer
Ken Williamson - Mono Librarian
Paul Chinn - BBS Sysop.



PC DITTO - TEST YOUR IBM PROGRAM WITH THE ST. Our hats are off, once again, to SOFTWARE 1st. They are loaning the club a 5 1/4 inch disk drive which connects to an ST. If you have IBM software you want to try, bring it to the meeting and try it out! IBM testing will begin after the main portion of the meeting.

Programmers' S.I.G.

The first programmers' S.I.G. meeting will occur at the next meeting. IF PROGRAMMING IS YOUR THING, COME TO THE PROGRAMMERS' S.I.G.

WE NEED SOME COMPUTERS AT THE MEETING. PLEASE CALL GREG CORELL AT 575-3527 IF YOU CAN BRING YOUR COLOR ST!

Remember, if you bring your computer, you get five free blank disks, or two free club disks! Call Greg Correll at 575-3527 before the meeting day to make arrangements.

Please be at the church no later than 7:00 PM. Systems brought late can not be set up in time. (Hint, bring one of those two-to- three prong adapters if you can.

ABOUT THE PICNIC...

The picnic was held as scheduled. The turnout was small, but those that did come had a good time. Some folks came, but couldn't find us. We apologize for the inconsiderate park employees who told some of you to "look around". We had reserved the gazebo for the club, the people working the gate should have known that. We are sorry for the park employees' lazy attitude.

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ATARI TALK ■■■■■

By Jerry Mc Bride

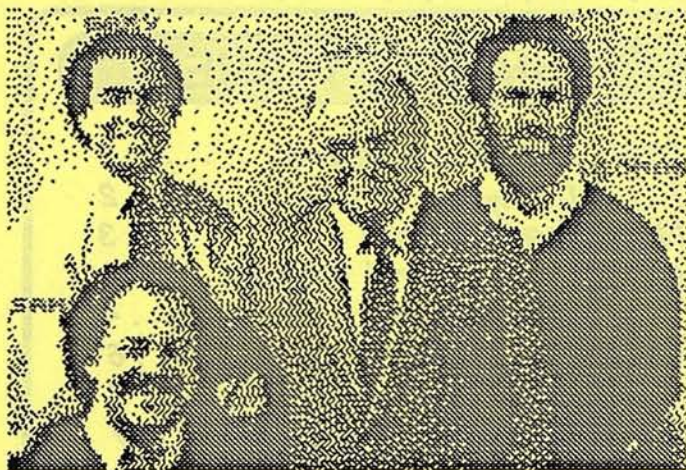
ST is Top Music Computer

The ST is continuing to sweep the music industry as the MIDI computer of choice. The ST is being sold by approximately 250 music dealers, far more than the Apple Macintosh, which is sold by only 80 music dealers nation-wide.

Atari Corp. Blasted for Late Product Introductions

COAST users' group, one of the largest groups in the country, blasted Atari Corp. for not fulfilling product introduction promises. The president of COAST called Atari to task for continued slip-outs on several new products, including the IBM clone, the new TOS chips, the blitter chip, the long awaited MODEM, Microsoft Write, the AMY sound chip, the laser printer, the Mega ST's, and an IBM "black box" for the ST.

COAST users' group grabbed Atari's attention by making the indictment not only to all subscribers of their newsletter, but distributed it nation-wide to all other ST user's groups. COAST's main complaint was that Atari seemed to take their supporters for granted, and that they purposely misinformed people about what products they would produce (i.e. the IBM box for the ST) as well as when products would be released. Atari's frustrating propensity for announcing new products and then not delivering is making many ST owners very angry, according to COAST.



TWO WEEKS



Speaking of the MODEM

The Atari MODEM was supposed to be on store shelves on August 1. This as promised by Neil Harris to ST ACE at the last Atari convention. Well, as of this writing, the MODEM was not available, perhaps in another few weeks...

High School-Level Educational Software Now Available

Arrakis has released four high school offerings for the ST, Algebra, Biology, Chemistry, and Geometry. These are to be the first in a series of serious educational programs from this company.

ST Software Catalog Available

The international software catalog from Atari lists hundreds of ST programs from various companies, along with capsule descriptions of each. To receive the catalog, send a check or money order for \$12.95 plus \$2.50 for shipping to Atari Customer Relations, Attn: International ST Software Catalog, P.O. Box 61657, Sunnyvale, Ca 94088.



PC DITTO (IBM EMULATOR) ■■■■■

By Jerry Mc Bride

Many of you have probably heard; the new IBM emulator program is here! Since there may be a few of you that do not know what an "emulator" is, here is a brief description:

An emulator is a program that imitates another computer. It is a translator, telling your ST how to run a program written for a different machine. Using an emulator program is currently the only way to run IBM software on your ST.

CAVEATS/REQUIREMENTS

The first requirement is that you have a double-sided disk drive and a color monitor. A monochrome version is due to be released soon. You must also acquire a copy of MS DOS.

Also, an emulator may allow you to run many of the programs made for the IBM computer, however, it cannot run ALL the programs written the IBM.

HERE'S WHY

The reason some programs won't run with an emulator is that they try to talk directly to internal IBM computer circuits. This direct manipulation gives a program faster IBM run speed, or faster/better graphics. This scheme works fine if the computer is a real IBM, but the ST has different internal circuitry, so the program cannot work. Such a program may be trying to tell an IBM to draw a pretty box, but is actually telling your ST to blow bits out it's ascii.

How do you tell the program that it's trying to load files from the mouse? What do you do when it blows your resume out the MODEM port? How do you get MS WORD to stop printing in mirrored Portuguese? These are the kinds of things such a program may try to do!

Before you decide to cut loose \$90 for the emulator, look at the list of programs the manufacturer says it will run. If the program isn't on the list, bring the program to the August club meeting and try it out.

WHAT PROGRAMS RUN ON PC DITTO?

Here are some guidelines:

- * The programs on the PC Ditto list will run.
- * Most business programs will run (if they don't depend heavily on graphics) - accounting, payroll, financial, and other number crunching programs should run well.
- * It's almost a sure bet that program compilers will run. (Pascal, C, Basic, etc.)
- * Chances are that programs that use a lot of graphics either won't run, or will run at a snails-pace and have deteriorated pictures.

For those programs that run on the emulator, expect one more side effect: Emulators run slower than their IBM equivalent. How much slower depends on the program. Expect around 90% of the IBM's speed.

TO USE THE EMULATOR:

1. You need to get a copy of MS DOS. This Microsoft program is not supplied with the emulator, and runs about \$60 to \$80 if you have to buy it. The emulator won't run without a copy of MS DOS. MS DOS requires the double-sided drive.

2. Copy the program from the 5 1/4" IBM disk to the ST's 3.5" disk. IBM programs come on 5 1/4 inch disks, so you have to do one of two things:

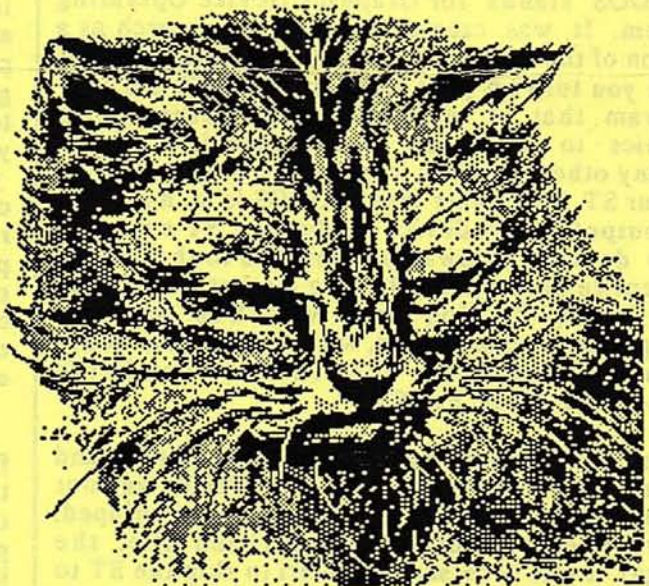
a. You can buy an IBM disk drive and cut off the connector. Wire an ST connector to it and you're in

business. The disks use the same electronic format, so you can use an IBM drive with your ST. The IBM drive can be set up as drive B. Although IBM disk drives are about the same price as an ST drive, you may prefer the solution explained below:

b. Find someone with a 5 1/4 inch "IBM converted to ST" drive and copy the programs from the larger disks to the ST-sized disks. **THIS WILL NOT WORK WITH COPY PROTECTED PROGRAMS.**

SUMMARY

PC Ditto is a breakthrough for the ST. It provides a great deal of IBM compatibility at a very reasonable cost. (\$90 is cheap compared to a \$300+ "Black Box", which doesn't even exist). ST owners that have an IBM at work or at their small business can now "have their cake and eat it too". I know one businessman who is using PC ditto to run an extremely powerful real-estate property management program. He has an IBM clone at his office, and an ST at home. PC ditto allows him to do important work at home. In fact, he's planning to sell the clone and buy a 1040 system for the office,



NEW CHESS GAME ■■■■

Szabo Software has released TechMate Chess, and it is receiving very good reviews. The game has excellent graphics - a 2-d "classic" computer board, and it plays a good game of chess! TechMate represents years of programming work, the game algorithm was originally developed by Szabo as a Master's thesis in computer science. TechMate was written to take advantage of the ST's outstanding graphics and user interface. Retail price: \$39.95



GDOS - A USERS PRIMER ■■■■

by Dan Fruchey

At one time or another almost every ST user has heard of GDOS (pronounced GEE-DOSS). Perhaps you read about it in a magazine, heard it abused in a string of profanity by a programmer, or perhaps you picked up a program with a glossy banner that proclaimed it used GDOS. Most ST users, even those who use a product that implements it, know little or nothing about this wonder. Hopefully this article will give you a basic working knowledge of what the product is, what it does, and how it affects your use of the Atari ST.

WHAT IS GDOS?

GDOS stands for Graphics Device Operating System. It was created by Digital Research as a portion of the TOS (that desktop you interface with when you turn on your computer). GDOS is a sub-program that is responsible for outputting all graphics to peripherals such as a monitor, printer, and any other graphics capable devices hooked up to your ST. The whole idea of GDOS is to maximize any output to any device so that the ST uses the other device's hardware capabilities to the fullest. The entire desktop publishing market is based on WYSIWIG (What You See Is What You Get) text and graphics capabilities, with GDOS the entire definition is changed, now it's What You Get Is Better Than What You See!

So far GDOS sounds like a pretty good idea, and it really is! The problem is that GDOS was not completed when the ST was ready to be shipped. In order to beat out the competition (i.e. the Amiga) it was necessary for Atari to ship the ST to users minus GDOS. Up to this point many people haven't noticed the lack of GDOS, to date many program developers have completely overlooked it and still produced some excellent results (we will discuss some of these programs later). The problem is that without following the standards Atari set (including GDOS) we have run into such a confusion of different formats and output styles that none of the current programs are interfaceable. As a result you can't load a Neochrome picture into DEGAS without a conversion program, you can't use multiple printer fonts simultaneously, and you

can't manipulate text without major headaches in reformatting.

It is not the fault of these programmers that this occurred, but once the product was released most developers failed to convert to the standard Atari established two years ago. Atari has announced a soon-to-be-released major revision of the TOS chips in your ST, in theory this will include GDOS in the ROM chips. At this time the only way you can get GDOS is to place it in an AUTO folder on your disk and have it boot automatically when you turn on your computer. Many users have obtained a copy of the GDOS program by itself and tried using it with their other graphic programs and failed, the problem being that most of these programs don't know how to access GDOS even when it is available.

WHAT DOES GDOS DO?

As an example of what GDOS can do, let's compare two graphics programs: EASY DRAW (my personal favorite) and NEOCHROME. Since most people have Neochrome I'll assume you are at least basically familiar with it. The program creates beautiful color pictures that you can view and trade. It allows you to create geometric shapes and color or shade them. You can copy portions of pictures and size (enlarge or shrink) them. You can grab portions of other pictures and mix them together, free hand drawing is allowed, etc. In short you can manipulate the picture in just about any way you want to. However, when you make any size changes to the pictures they must be edited to retain a sense of proportion and balance. Further, printout of Neochrome pictures is awkward and the printer output is poor and usually not worth the effort. Text is difficult to read and once you place it on the screen, you can't change it. You have to erase it and start over.

Now let's examine Easy Draw. The program fully implements GDOS, as a matter of fact it is the only full GDOS implementation currently on the market. Easy Draw also produces nice looking pictures that you can view and trade also. In a sense it produces sketches, but the process goes beyond what Neochrome can do. Imagine enlarging a picture to twice its previous size and still have each curve look smooth and proportional. How about changing a text style simply by clicking your mouse pointer on a portion of text you've chosen and selecting a different style, or for that matter its size, font type (from Hi-Tech to Swiss), etc. with a click of your mouse. At the same time you can import pictures from programs like Neochrome into Easy Draw and perform some of these very same functions. In addition, the output to your printer will look BETTER than it did on the screen

as a printer has a higher density of dots than the screen (GDOS optimizes your output).

If all graphics and text programs used GDOS as Atari intended there would not be so many graphic formats (we counted eleven different formats on the shelves at Software 1st). Each program would understand the file format of all other programs, thus each program would use the same printer drivers, fonts, and would allow pain free importation of objects and text. As it is we spend more time piecing things together from multiple formats than creating our projects (ask Dave Filipello about creating clip art for the newsletter).

To those of you who know GDOS you may cry that this is not a fair comparison, this is true but it is the most accurate one that can be made. Comparing GDOS programs to non-GDOS programs is like comparing lemons to linoleum --- you can't do it! Should you desire a more complex explanation of the differences I will gladly talk to you at a future club meeting. For those of you who were lost in this comparison, I suggest you visit Software 1st and examine Mark Taylor's book of printed graphics output, it shows different output from many text and graphics programs currently available. There is only one non-GDOS program that can compare, this is Publishing Partner, the program used for creating this newsletter (yes, I'll get to it later!)

GDOS SPECIFICS

As I said the GDOS is a missing portion of your operating system. The GDOS utility is a portion of the VDI (Virtual Device Interface) which is device independent. The VDI handles graphics I/O functions including the drawing lines and Bit Block Transfers (a method of moving or copying a block of pixels from one place to another). The programmer can directly access the VDI and allow it to do much of the work involved in creating lines, text, circles, etc. The missing GDOS portion cancels the device independent capabilities of the VDI. As a result only one set of drivers is available to the programmer in the current TOS chip set-up for all three resolutions, output is handled in bit-by-bit printer dumps of the screen image (in programs such as DEGAS) and each developer ends up creating their own drivers for the process. In addition to this much of the portability normally allowed between GEM based software is cancelled.

To my thinking perhaps the worst aspect of the absence of GDOS has been the inability to load and manipulate fonts in the easy manner the system intended to do so. The ST can be forced to

accept other fonts but the ability to manipulate them is limited and difficult compared to the method Atari and Digital Research intended. Using GDOS any single font can be outlined, underlined, bold faced, italicized, lightened, or a combination thereof without changing fonts. In any non-GDOS program this would not be possible without having a separate font for each of these different style options. GDOS also allows the user to have multiple fonts on the screen at one time in editable text fields. Other programs using multiple fonts save the text as graphic images. Their drawback is that once created the fields cannot be changed or edited once you leave the text mode.

GDOS DRAWBACKS

So that there is no misunderstanding, I thought you ought to know the bad points also. GDOS is a terminate and stay resident program. This means that it eats a portion of memory and hogs it as long as the system is running. To deactivate GDOS you need to reboot your system. Between multiple fonts for the screen and printer GDOS can eat an awfully large chunk of memory (in some cases as much as 2-300k) if you don't have a 1040 or memory upgrade you could be running short on bytes. If you have a 520 just keep in mind the basic programs will still run but it limits the number of fonts you can access at any one time.

WHO USES GDOS?

As I mentioned before there is only one program at this time that fully implements all the GDOS capabilities, Easy Draw by Migraph. There are however many programs that have a partial implementation of GDOS. These programs tend to use the multiple font/multiple type style options of GDOS. They lack the high resolution output you will see with the full implementation. One nice thing about these partial implementations is that fonts are transportable and can be used by any other GDOS program. Listed below are many GDOS/Partial GDOS products currently available. There may be others I may be unaware of.

- * Easy Draw (Migraph) - Full Implementation
- * DEGAS ELITE (Batteries Included) - Partial
- * PAINT PRO (Abacus Software) - Partial
- * CAD 3D Ver. 2.0 (Antic Software) - Partial
- * DOLLARS & SENSE (Monogram) - Partial

GDOS Vaporware (Products yet to be released)

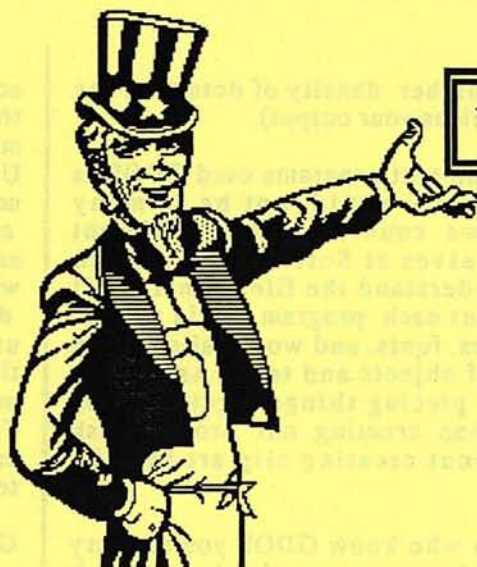
- * PAPERCLIP ELITE (Batteries Included) - Partial
- * M.CADD (Migraph) - Full Implementation

ALTERNATIVES TO GDOS

As of this writing there is only one realistic alternative to GDOS, this is Publishing Partner by Softlogik. The programmers of PP grew frustrated waiting for the final version of GDOS and finally created their own utility that emulates it. In many ways their programming surpasses GDOS... in other ways it falls short. PP uses less memory than GDOS does and it acts about the same. However, the font files, drivers, etc. are not transportable to any other program and the programmers do not anticipate any other company using their format. At this time it is essentially a toss up between this program which acts like a full GDOS implementation and actual GDOS products. There are many companies who have promised to use GDOS in future releases of products but it is a matter of current application versus future portability and application of software.

CONCLUSIONS

Obviously I am in favor of GDOS products. They give the ST the additional punch it needs in text and graphic manipulation. GDOS allows high quality output to printers and has the best dot matrix output of anything currently on the market. GDOS makes desktop publishing on the ST a realistic possibility now and in the future. The release of these products is coming slowly but they promise to be the most portable and standardized of ST software products. Check out GDOS more fully, I am sure you'll agree.



CLUB ELECTIONS ■■■■

There will be a general election in September of this year for some of the board positions. A nominating committee was formed at the June meeting consisting of Mark Taylor, Jim Ogelsby, Cathleen LeFevre and Greg Correll. Nominations from the floor will be conducted at the August meeting. The nominating committee will announce their selections at that time.

The elections will be held at the September meeting. At the last board meeting it was decided to make only four of the positions elective, and the remainder to be appointed by the elected board. The reason for this was two-fold, partly because of the lack of volunteers to serve, and partly because some of the positions require specific skills or particular hardware requirements to fulfill. The positions will be described below.

If you think you would like to be a board member or if you know someone who would do an excellent job, then by all means run for office or nominate someone. This is the time when most clubs fall on their faces because nobody wants to take the ball and run. Let's all participate to continue the success of our club. The elective Board positions are as follows:

President - Presides at the meeting and oversees the performance of the other board members' activities.

Vice-President/Program Chairperson - Responsible for carrying out the board's decision on the planning of the meeting. Contacts speakers, solicits software for demos, and makes sure equipment is at the meeting place.

Treasurer/Secretary - Keeps financial books on the club's income and expenses. Keeps minutes at board meeting.

Membership Chairperson - Processes new members by accepting membership applications and money, enters new members into database, prints labels from database for mailings, and notifies members if membership is lapsing.

Appointed Board positions are to be as follows:

Newsletter Editor - Basically constructs the newsletter, edits submitted material, puts into newsletter form using a desktop publisher, gets copies made, and mails out newsletter.

Newsletter Co-Editor - Helps the editor in the above.

Disk Librarian - Finds new material and creates club public domain disks via modem or contact with other clubs, makes labels for disks, and writes disk of the month article for the newsletter.

Asst. Disk Librarian - Besides helping in the above, the Assistant will reproduce disks in quantity for sale at the meetings, and will handle the mail-order disk sales.

BBS Sysop - Sets up and runs a Bulletin Board in the club's name for members to communicate with each other and download Public Domain software with their modems.

There you have it. The jobs are not that time consuming and can be fun as well as a means of meeting new people. So please take part in this process. New ideas will make the club grow.

CONSUMER TIP ■■■■■

If you are a member of COSTCO, you can buy single-sided or double-sided 3.5 inch disks very inexpensively! Single-sided Sony disks are about \$15 for a package of 15 disks. Double-sided Sony disks are about \$23 for a package of 15. Each package of disks come with a nice plastic carry-case.



ST ACE PUBLIC DOMAIN ■■■■■

Each month this section will list the disks which are currently available, notices regarding errors on previous disks, and previews of new disks.

LOOK WHAT'S COMING!

Sorry Gang! Not a single new disk this month. With such a poor showing at the picnic we thought that instead of producing more disks this month we would just offer the same new disks from last month. Consult the July issue of the newsletter for detailed descriptions, or see #27, 28 and 29 below.

Remember that the purchase of four disks will yield a fifth disk free. The club will be using the new 25" Sony monitor to demonstrate the Public Domain disks at each meeting. This will hopefully stimulate club disk sales and help you to know which you want to purchase.

Disks available by mail order or at meeting:

- * **ST WRITER - Version 1.70.** This is a brand new, greatly enhanced version of the original ST Wordprocessor including new documentation and references that will aid you in using this program.
- * **ST ACE Disk #1 - D.E.G.A.S.** A collection new pictures and fonts for this excellent program by Tom Hudson. You don't have D.E.G.A.S.? Also included is a program which will transfer these files to NEOCHROME format for viewing.
- * **ST ACE Disk #3 - Utilities, A Collection of 15 useful programs plus additional computer documentations including RAMDISKS, sound demos, calculator accessory, a copy program for some protected disks, a disk library program, BREAKOUT, ELIZA, and more.**
- * **ST ACE Disk #4 - Monochrome Games & Graphics, A disk provided exclusively for the monochrome computer owner. Includes digitized photos, Megaroids computer game, desk accessories, etc.**
- * **ST ACE Disk #5 - Games & Demos, Some of the best demos out on the market plus Checkers, a maze accessory, parachute game, blackjack, and more.**
- * **ST ACE Disk #6 - Utilities, Desk accessory calendar, disk directory print accessory, clock, graphics compressor, address book program, and clues and solutions to PAWN and SUNDG, etc.**

* **ST ACE Disk #7 - Basic**, A collection of basic games, utilities, and graphics including biorhythm, star charts, financial package, adventure games, internal clock program, and more.

* **ST ACE Disk #8 - Miscellaneous**, Includes fractals, print spooler, graphics demos, maze game, ramdisk for 1040 users, ARC modem program, labelmaker, etc.

* **ST ACE Disk #9 - Amusements**, Includes adventure game construction set, maze game, quiz game, Christmas pics, an index to all 1986 ST ACE disks, etc.

* **ST ACE Disk #10 - Tiny Pics**, 21 Pictures compressed into tiny format for viewing. Also includes a program that will uncompress pictures and change them from NEO to DEGAS format.

* **ST ACE Disk #11 - Sound & Graphics**, Includes picture display program, speech synthesizer, synthesizer programs and sound demos.

* **ST ACE Disk #12 - Hack**, Fantasy adventure game.

* **ST ACE Disk #13 - DEGAS ELITE**, GDOS Fonts, Tiny loader accessory, display program and updates to manuals.

* **ST ACE Disk #14 - Utilities**, desktop accessory wordprocessor, TI-59 calculator, extended formatter, reset-proof ramdisk, disk labeller, spelling checker, and more.

* **ST ACE Disk #15 - VIP**, 19 templates for use with VIP including, black book, general ledger, stocks, payroll, checkbook balancer, and more.

* **ST ACE Disk #16 - Telecommunications**, modem software which incorporates ASCII, XMODEM, and KERMIT transfer protocols. Disk also includes decompression utilities to use on programs you download.

* **ST ACE Disk #17 - Games**, Includes LARN-a text adventure game, missile command, advanced version of breakout, version 2.0 of Celestial Cesaers, etc.

* **ST ACE Disk #18 - MONOPOLY**, Plays just like the real game. Mouse driven, play up to three computer generated opponents at one time. Commercial quality graphics game. RUNS IN LOW RESOLUTION ONLY!!

* **ST ACE Disk #19 - MUSIC STUDIO** - 51 songs.

* **ST ACE Disk #20 - Tiny Pics** - 18 new pics and a new programmable viewer program that will allow color pics to be shown in high resolution.

* **ST ACE Disk #21 - New Users** - Includes many simple utilities that are musts for an ST user as well as a disk cataloger, spooler, ram disk, program that teaches users how to access desktop, etc.

* **ST ACE Disk #22 - Chess and Pool games**. Both are extremely large games.

* **ST ACE Disk #23 - PRINTMASTER** - A large collection of Icons and borders for use with Printmaster.

* **ST ACE Disk #24 - Misc.** - Includes new printer buffer, Read Only Control panel, P.D. Version of DEGAS, graphics demos, sector editor, auto loading ramdisk utility, etc.

* **ST ACE Disk #25 - GFA Basic** - A collection of GFA utilities, demos and games to introduce you to this fast new programming language.

* **ST ACE Disk #26 - GAMES** - Children's match up game, Wheel of Fortune, Yahtzee, Checkers, Stone Age arcade game, and more.

* **ST ACE Disk #27 - Tiny Pics & Graphic Utilities** - Auto loading slideshow of 15 pics in tiny format, new slideshow program (show pics in all res.), PICSWITCH upgrade (now works in monochrome too!).

* **ST ACE Disk #28 - Utilities** - ASCII table accessory, new control panel, typewriter accessory, GDOS font editor, New ARC shell and ARC related utilities, Disk editor, much more.

* **ST ACE Disk #29 - GAMES** - Oh so popular with club members! OGRE, Kids spelling game, P.D. version of arcade favorite SINISTAR, Time Bandit hints, Time Bandits Invincible player utility, flight simulator airport files, etc.

That's all for this month! Don't forget all disks are \$5.00 each for members and \$10.00 for non-members. Please remember to include an additional 75 cents for postage and handling if you purchase disks through the mail. Use the P.O. Box address listed in the front of the newsletter and mark all your requests "ATTN: Disk Librarian". Please allow about two weeks for delivery.



BOMB

Of the Month Award

As a service to our readers, ST ACE will report any serious computer or software problems. If any such problems have caused you to go through "compu-trauma", please let the newsletter editor know.

This month's Bomb of the Month Award goes to a financial program called Financial Cookbook, by Electronic Arts. This program is actually a fine product, unless mixed with a hard disk drive.

Dave Gibbons placed Financial Cookbook on his hard drive, and used it as a "key disk" program. He would boot the program from hard disk, and place the master diskette in the drive so the program could verify that he had a legal copy. Financial Cookbook worked fine from hard disk, so long as Dave had the master disk inserted during boot-up.

Well, things were all roses until Dave tried to back up the hard disk. In the middle of the backup, both drives went belly-up, their little access lights permanently aglow. This distressed Dave mightily, and caused his countenance to fall. Dave had to turn the power to the system off and start over. Only then did he discover the extent of his plight, the hard disk directory had been completely erased! For those of you who are computer novices, if you erase the disk directory you might as well have erased the actual files on the disk - they are lost forever. Dave lost EVERY SINGLE FILE ON THE HARD DISK. If you want more information about this problem, see to Dave.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP ■■■■

Annual dues for membership in the club are \$15.00 per family. You may join by paying your dues to Mark Taylor at Software 1st, or mailing a check to him at 2173 W. Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Make checks payable to ST ACE. You will be asked to fill out a membership application. Membership cards will be given out when you join.

Membership entitles you to:

- * A monthly newsletter.
- * Public Domain disks for \$5 each, non-members pay \$10).
- * 10% software discount at Software 1st.

P.D. DISKS BY MAIL ■■■■

Dear ST ACE, Please send me the following disks;

Disk #	Disk Name
_____	# 1
_____	# 2
_____	# 3
_____	# 4
_____	Free

Total number of disks _____ x \$5.00= _____

Postage and handling fee = .75

TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Mail check to: ST ACE - Attn. Disk Librarian
P.O. Box 3742
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Public domain disks are my
cup of tea, don't ya know.



Classifieds

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